



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
DONALD E. WILLIAMSON, M.D. ♦ STATE HEALTH OFFICER

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## ESCAMBIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### **Rabid Gray Fox in Brewton prompts heightened rabies waring**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

##### **CONTACT:**

Casey Grant  
251-867-5765

Local public health officials are urging people to take basic, but extremely important, precautions in the Brewton area against rabies. The warning follows the confirmation of a positive gray fox that was found in a residential neighborhood on May 26, 2015. This is the first rabid animal known to be found in Escambia County for several years.

The biggest concern is that a rabid animal may come into contact with humans, their pets or livestock. Raccoons, bats, foxes and skunks are most often responsible for transmitting the virus to domesticated animals and humans.

The following precautions should be taken to avoid possible exposure to rabies:

- Do not allow pets to run loose; confine them within a fenced-in area or with a leash.
- Do not leave out uneaten pet food or scraps around your house.
- Do not illegally feed or keep wildlife as pets.
- Don't go near domestic animals that are acting in a strange or unusual manner.
- Instruct children not to go near any non-domesticated animal regardless of its behavior.
- Advise children to tell an adult if they are bitten or scratched by an animal.

A person who is bitten or scratched by an animal should wash wounds immediately with mild soap and water, apply first aid, and seek medical attention or contact the county health department as soon as possible. Rabies is preventable in humans exposed to a positive animal if special medical treatment is provided in a timely manner.

Avoiding direct contact with wildlife is the primary protection from rabies. In addition, vaccinating domesticated animals also reduces the risk of exposure to rabies. Rabies vaccination not only protects the animals from rabies, it helps protect the owners, family members, and other pets as well. Alabama state law requires that all dogs, cats and ferrets must be kept current with rabies vaccination. Rabies vaccines are also available for horses and other livestock if recommended by a veterinarian.

The Escambia County Rabies Clinic is scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2015. There is a \$10 charge for the rabies vaccinations. The clinic will be stopping at following locations throughout Escambia County:

- Friendship Fire Department: 6:45am - 7:00am
- Lambeth-Boutwell Church: 7:15am - 7:30am
- Flomaton Lion's Park Community Center: 8:30am - 9:00am
- Pollard City Hall: 9:10am – 9:20am
- McCall School: 9:35am – 9:50am
- South Bethel Church of God on Foshee Road: 10:00am – 10:05am
- Hinotes Old Store on Foshee Road: 10:10am – 10:20am
- Pineview Cross Roads: 10:35am – 10:50am
- Barnett's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department: 11:15am – 11:20am
- Downtown Wallace Thompson's Store: 11:35am – 11:45am
- Country Kitchen Appleton Road: 12:00pm – 12:05pm
- Appleton Volunteer Fire Department: 12:15pm – 12:20pm
- Zion Hill Baptist Church on Hwy 31 North: 12:25pm – 12:30pm
- Jefferson Davis Community College baseball parking lot: 1:30pm – 1:35pm
- C.M. Grocery at Riverview: 1:45pm – 1:55pm
- W.S. Neal High School: 2:05pm – 2:15pm
- East Brewton First Baptist Church: 2:20pm – 2:25pm
- Spring Hill Primitive Church: 2:30pm – 2:35pm
- Elem Church: 3:00pm – 3:05pm
- Rockcreek Pentecostal Church: 3:15pm – 3:20pm
- Bradley Elliott's Store: 3:30pm – 3:35pm
- Damascus Volunteer Fire Department: 5:00pm – 5:15pm
- Maxwell's Quickmart on Highway 29: 5:30pm – 5:45pm

For more information, contact the Alabama Department of Public Health, Bureau of Communicable Disease, Division of Epidemiology, at 1-800-338-8734 or the Escambia County Health Department at (251) 867-5765.

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